

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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R 301010Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 057

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, PINT

SUBJ: INGATHERING OF YEMENI POLITICIANS

REF: SANAA 2417

SUMMARY. AYNi NOW BACK IN YEMEN. ATTAR MOVING TO UN SECRETARIAT.
AYNI RETURN HAS REFUELED RUMORS HE WILL BECOME
PRIMIN AGAIN, BUT WE CONSIDER THIS UNLIKELY FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, FORMER PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI, NOW
AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, DR. ATTAR, YARG RESREP IN NEW YORK, AND
YAHYA GEGHMAN, AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN CALLED HOME
FOR CONSULTATIONS AND HAVE NOW ARRIVED. ANOTHER RECENT ARRIVAL IS
YAHYA AL-MUTAWAKKIL, AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO. AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED
VISITOR IS ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-BAYDANI, YAR'S FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
WHO WAS OUSTED SHORTLY AFTER REVOLUTION BY THEN PRESIDENT
SALLAL AND EXILED TO CAIRO. HE REPORTEDLY STOPPED IN SANAA ON
WAY TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE AND POSSIBLY TO PAVE WAY FOR RETURN TO
YEMEN AS PRIVATE CITIZEN. (HE GENERALLY ENJOYS REPUTATION FOR
BEING MENTALLY UNBALANCED AND WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY
POLITICAL FUTURE.)

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2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 29, DR. ATTAR HAS BEEN

APPOINTED TO UN SECRETARIAT AS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF WEST ASIA STATES. WE PRESUME HE WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO NEW YORK AS RESREP AND TRUST THAT OUR SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS TO YARG LEADERS RE HIS DELEGATION'S UNHELPFUL INITIATIVES IN SUPPORTING SIHANOUK AND NORTH KOREA AND PARTICULARLY RECENT MISCHIEVOUS INITIATIVE ON FINANCING OF UNEF IN MIDDLE EAST WERE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH RESPONSIBLE NON-ALIGNMENT WILL LEAD TO NOMINATION MORE MODERATE REPLACEMENT.

3. AS EXPECTED, AYNIS RETURN HAS RESTOKED FIRES OF SANAA RUMOR MILL WHICH NOW TOUTING HIM AGAIN AS REPLACEMENT FOR PRIMIN HAJRI WITH DEP CIC HAMDI AS MINDEF (NEW POST) AND AMBASSADOR MUTAWAKKIL IN VACANT POST MININT. AT SAME TIME RUMORS AGAIN CIRCULATING THAT REPUBLICAN COUNCIL WOULD EXPAND TO CONSTITUTIONALLY AUTHORIZED FIVE SEATS WITH ADDITION LEFTIST AYNIS AND DEP PRIMIN MAKKI TO BALANCE CONSERVATIVES HAJRI AND AHMAD NU'MAN. OUR READING, HOWEVER, IS THAT, AS USUAL, DISCUSSION IN YEMEN IS FAR AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENTS. DESPITE PRESIDENT IRYANIS KNOWN PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR AYNIS OVER TRUCULENT AND STIFF PRIMIN HAJRI, THERE REMAINS POWERFUL OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH EXTENSIVE CHANGE, NOT ONLY FROM SAG AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP, BUT FROM OTHER YEMENI POLITICIANS WHO DISLIKE HIS DO-NOTHING APPROACH TOMZOLITICAL PROBLEMS AND HIS POLITICAL TIES TO DISLOYAL ELEMENTS AMONG LEFT WHICH THEY FEAR MIGHT MAKE HIM KERENSKY OF YEMEN. RETURN OF AYNIS AS PRIMIN REMAINS POSSIBILITY BUT WE DO NOT SEE THIS LIKELY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE GIVEN PRESENT ALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL FACTIONS.
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